

CYPRESS LOG CABIN, GUEST HOUSE
Beverly Shores-Century of Progress
Architectural District
231 Lake Front Drive
Beverly Shores
Porter County
Indiana

HABS NO. IN-241-A

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2A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

CYPRESS LOG CABIN, GUEST HOUSE

HABS No. IN-241-A

Location: 231 West Lake Front Drive, south side, Beverly Shores, Porter County, Indiana

Present Owner: National Park Service

Present Occupant: Reservation of Use and Occupancy Agreement, Paul and Susan Zucker (expires 9/12/95)

Significance: An outbuilding of the Cypress Log Cabin, the guest house was originally a part of the Home and Industrial Arts Group at the 1933-34 Chicago Century of Progress Exposition. The structure was moved to Beverly Shores, Indiana by Robert Bartlett, a real-estate developer who purchased the houses after the close of the fair.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1934
2. Architect: presumably Murray D. Hetherington, Chicago IL
3. Original and subsequent owners, occupants, uses: Sponsored by Southern Cypress Manufacturer's Assn., Jacksonville, FL. the Daily News reported on November 3, 1934, that the Cypress Cabin was purchased by the Zimmerman estate represented by Zimmerman, Saxe and MacBride, Chicago architects. At that time, plans for the house were to move it to a site near St. Joseph, Michigan where it was to be reerected as a summer home near the location of the the Bolton exhibit building of the 1893 Columbian Exposition. Most likely, this sale also included the other landscaped parts of the exhibition as well as the Guest House. Shortly thereafter, however, the cabin was moved by truck to Beverly Shores where it remains to this day. Bartlett owned the house until November, 1942 when he sold it to Ida J. Osterberg. Sometime between 1942 and 1950, the property changed hands again; on February 24, 1950, Ely and Rachel Bramson sold it to Mildred Wood. Alla and Soloman Jesmer purchased the property from Wood on May 12, 1953; they eventually sold it to their nephew, Paul Zucker and his wife Susan Zucker. The house was purchased from the Zuckers on October 8, 1970 by the U.S. government for use in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Zuckers retained a twenty-five

year Reservation of Use that expires September 12, 1995.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Thomas Saunders and Sons, Chicago, IL, builder. Because there is no written documentation of the erection of the guest house and its purpose is completely speculation, no definite builder and suppliers can be identified. We know from photographs that it was indeed on the site during the 1934 season of the fair. Presumably, then, the same builders and suppliers were used as at the Cypress Log Cabin.

5. Original plans and construction: The information on the Home and Industrial Arts group as well as material on the Cypress House itself makes no mention of a guest house. In the Official Guide Book: World's Fair 1934, however, the promotional information notes that "[i]n the garden is a cypress workshop in which demonstrations are given of carving quaint bird and animal heads from cypress 'knees'."¹ According to a photograph in a 1934 publication, the building, identifiable by the carved bargeboard and the distinctive posts on either side of the main entrance, contained two overhead garage doors in its left wing.² These large overhead doors were replaced with smaller doors when the house was converted a guest house, most likely after the move to Beverly Shores. In addition, the original house had shingles rather than the log-inspired siding now covering the exterior.

6. Alterations and additions: An enclosed porch and rear storage room have been added.

B. Historical Context:

In the winter and spring of 1934, sixteen buildings were brought by barge and by truck from the site of the 1933-34 Century of Progress Exposition to Robert Bartlett's subdivision at Beverly Shores, Indiana. In an attempt to capitalize on the fair's success, Bartlett reestablished a small exhibition of model houses along Lake Front Drive in Beverly Shores. Understanding the importance of the fair to Chicago and to Depression-era America is crucial for comprehending the significance of the houses for Bartlett and for those who purchased land at Beverly Shores. (See HABS No. IN-239)

1. The Cypress Guest House

¹ Official Guide Book: World's Fair 1934, 130.

² Dorothy Raley, ed., Homes and Furnishings: a Century of Progress, (Chicago: M.A. Ring Company, 1934), 50.

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The Cypress Guest House seems to have been added to the Southern Cypress Association's display for the 1934 season only as a support building for the Cypress Log Cabin. The Cypress Log Cabin and Guest House were used to display cypress artifacts at the Century of Progress Exhibition, and unlike the other houses was not arranged to look as if someone lived there. Items included shingles from Mt. Vernon, a 150-year-old Seminole Indian Canoe, 200-year-old Spanish prison stocks, and a 120-year-old French water main from New Orleans.

The guest house was an outbuilding that was part of an assemblage of structures including fences, arbors, bridges and decorated cypress knees used to create a mountain lodge atmosphere. The information on the Home and Industrial Arts group as well as material on the Cypress House itself makes no mention of a guest house. In the Official Guide Book: World's Fair 1934, however, the promotional information notes that "[i]n the garden is a cypress workshop in which demonstrations are given of carving quaint bird and animal heads from cypress 'knees'."³ According to a photograph in a 1934 publication, the building, identifiable by the carved bargeboard and the distinctive posts on either side of the main entrance, contained two overhead garage doors in its left wing.⁴ These large overhead doors were replaced with smaller doors when the house was converted to a guest house, most likely after the move to Beverly Shores. In addition, the original house had shingles rather than the log-inspired siding now covering the exterior.

For the 1933 season of the fair, the only outbuilding was a greenhouse built by Lord & Burnham. For the 1934 season, the Southern Cypress Association applied for additional land in the former Dahlia Garden to construct a second greenhouse by Lord & Burnham's main competitor, the American Moninger Company. This request was denied and the most of the Dahlia Garden land was given to the Kohler company.⁵ The Lord & Burnham greenhouse was removed for the 1934 season and a new building was built that extended slightly into the Dahlia Garden. This may have been the Guest House, then functioning

³ Official Guide Book: World's Fair 1934, 130.

⁴ Dorothy Raley, ed., Homes and Furnishings: a Century of Progress, (Chicago: M.A. Ring Company, 1934), 50.

⁵ B.R. Ellis to Colonel Franklin D. Bell, Century of Progress, 19 January 1934, Special Collections, Richard J. Daley Library, University of Illinois, Chicago.

as a cypress workshop.⁶

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: rustic style with mountain lodge appearance.
2. Condition of fabric: fair to poor. The roof is falling apart and the floor is settling.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 87' x 18'
2. Foundations: concrete footings
3. Walls: Pecky cypress log siding with fungus holes pickled with white paint.
4. Structural system, framing: One story frame construction with pecky cypress and ship lap siding.
5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: A porch was added sometime after the house was moved to Beverly Shores.
6. Chimneys: One seriously deteriorating masonry chimney.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The house has six exterior doors, presumably to give each guest private access as well as to provide a communal entrance. There are two double doors in the main room; one leads to the front and the other leads to the screened in porch. The kitchen has two similar doors; one leads to the front and the other narrow door leads to the screened in porch. The bedroom off of the kitchen has one door to the front and the two bedrooms at the other end share one door.
 - b. Windows and shutters: The main area has five sets of double casement windows with six lights each. The kitchen, the bathroom, and the interior bedroom to the left of the main area each have one double casement with six lights. The end bedroom off of the kitchen has two

⁶ M.D. Hetherington to J. C. Folsom, 28 December 1993, Special Collections, Richard J. Daley Library, University of Illinois, Chicago.

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sets of double casements with six lights each while the other end bedroom has one double casement with six lights and one single casement window.

8. Roof: Gable roof covered with wooden shingles with carved rafters and bargeboard.

a. Shape, covering: The guest house has a gable roof covered with wooden shingles.

b. Cornice, eaves: The house has deep eaves supported by decorative brackets and detailed with a carved bargeboard.

c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: None.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: The guest house is a long, narrow rectangle. Its living area is almost symmetrical and consists of a main area and two wings, all one-room wide. One enters the house through double doors on the north side of the central area and then proceeds to either end. A second set of double doors on the south side of the main area leads out to the screened in porch. To the right of the main area are two rooms: a kitchen followed by a bedroom. To the left of the main area are two bedrooms and a bathroom. A storage area at the end of this wing is not accessible from the interior of the guest house.

2. Stairways: There are no stairways in this one-story house.

3. Flooring: The main area and bedrooms have carpeted floor. The kitchen and the bathroom floors are covered in vinyl.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls in every room are paneled and the ceilings are flat plywood.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Narrow doors separate the succession of rooms.

b. Windows: There are no interior windows.

6. Decorative features and trim: The house is simple construction with little ornamentation.

7. Hardware: The doors have original decorative hardware with crystal knobs.

8. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: ASK JUDY.
- b. Lighting: Lighting is by overhead lights with decorative 4-finial fixtures in the bedrooms, kitchen, and main area.
- c. Plumbing: There is one bathroom with a shower and a kitchen with a sink. Most likely, these were added after the house was moved to Beverly Shores. As mentioned elsewhere, at the fair the guest house appears to have been used as a cypress workshop.
- d. Appliances/fixtures: The kitchen has a large porcelain sink, a gas range and a refrigerator. The bathroom has a toilet, small sink and stand-up shower.

D. Site

1. Historic landscape design:

The Guest House was located in an unspecified place on the grounds of the Southern Cypress Association's display during the 1934 season of the Chicago Century of Progress Exposition. When it was moved to Beverly Shores, it was sited behind and parallel to the Cypress Log Cabin. Before moving any of the houses, Robert Bartlett expressed plans "to reconstruct and landscape them for sale exactly as they were on the Fair grounds."⁷ According to a contemporary article, Bartlett appears to have specific landscaping in mind; "The homes will be reconstructed along Lake Front Drive in Beverly Shores in a permanent location, especially landscaped to suit each particular type of architecture."⁸ Despite these claims, Bartlett neither replicated the exact fair siting nor did he appear to have created a landscaping scheme adapted to each house. By grouping the five houses together, however, he managed to recreate a sense of an "exhibition group" at Beverly Shores.

2. Outbuildings: The guest house is itself an outbuilding of the Cypress Log Cabin.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

⁷ "Six Model Homes Go to Market," Architectural Forum 62, no. 2 (February 1935): 181.

⁸ "Modern Homes to Be Moved to Beverly Shores," newspaper article in Ann Carlson's scrapbook, Beverly Shores, Indiana.

A. Architectural Drawings: None.

B. Early Views:

Photograph of guest house with overhead garage doors. Dorothy Raley, editor, Homes and Furnishings: a Century of Progress. (Chicago: M.A. Ring Company, 1934): 50.

C. Bibliography:

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Architectural Forum 61 (November 1934): 374-379.

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"Catalogue of A Century of Progress Exposition." Introduction, p. 1-5. Special Collections, Richard J. Daley Library, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago.

"Cypress Cabin at World's Fair Sold For Home." Chicago Daily News, November 3, 1934.

M.D. Hetherington, M.D. to J.C. Folsom, 28 December 1933. Chicago Century of Progress Exposition. Special Collection, Richard J. Daley Library, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago.

Horrigan, Brian. "The Home of Tomorrow, 1927-1945." In Imagining Tomorrow, ed. Corn, Joseph J., 137-163. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1986.

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Century of Progress. Special Collections, Richard J. Daley Library, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago.

Raley, Dorothy, ed. A Century of Progress: Homes and Furnishings. Chicago: M.A. Ring Company, 1934.

Walter, L. Rohe. "Look Homeward, America!" Review of Reviews and World's Work, October 1934, 27-30.

E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

Reyerson/Burnham Libraries at the Art Institute of Chicago were closed summer 1994. Have vertical files on the fair and maybe on the Home and Industrial Arts Group.

F. Supplemental Material:

Map showing location of Home and Industrial Arts group on fair site. From 1934 Souvenir Map. Collection of David and Sharon Kemerer. Reservation of Use holders of Armco-Ferro House, Beverly Shores, IN.

Map showing layout of Home and Industrial Arts group. From "The Modern Houses of A Century of Progress," The Architectural Forum July 1933, 51.

Chart showing "scientific" research on girder span. From "New Materials and Building Methods" Architectural Record April 1932, 282.

Photograph showing the Cypress Guest House during the 1934 season with overhead doors and shingles. Raley, Dorothy, ed. A Century of Progress: Homes and Furnishings. Chicago: M.A. Ring Company, 1934, 50.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Documentation of the Beverly Shores Century of Progress Homes and Historic District was undertaken in the summers of 1993 and 1994 by the Washington Office of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the National Park Service, Robert J. Kapsch, HABS/HAER Division Chief, and Paul D. Dolinsky, Chief of HABS. The project was cosponsored by the Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service, Andrew Ketterson, Chief of Cultural Resources and Craig Kenkel, Regional Historic Architect. Additional support was provided by Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Dale Engquest, Superintendent and William Supernaugh, Assistant Superintendent.

The project was directed by Frederick J. Lindstrom, HABS Supervisory Architect. The field documentation was completed by

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Project Supervisor, Judith E. Collins and Field Foremen: Joseph A. Boquiren and Laura J. Culberson, with Architecture Technicians: Bert V. Calhoun, II, Eric T. Helgoth, David M. Lefton, Michael J. Seibert, Lillian M. Smith and Lori A. Smith. The historical report and written building surveys were produced by Project Historian Maria F. Ali, under the direction of Catherine Lavoie, HABS Senior Historian and Sarah Allaback, HABS Historian. The large format photography was produced by HABS staff photographer Jack E. Boucher in 1994. Recognition must also go to the individual residents of the houses and the staff of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore for their cooperation and assistance.